

Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nina Archabal for her 33 years of service to the Minnesota Historical Society, including 23 years of service as the Director

The Minnesota Historical Society is a private nonprofit organization that was founded in 1849 to preserve the history of the State of Minnesota, while providing educational and cultural learning opportunities. Today, the society operates 26 historic sites and museums throughout the state of Minnesota.

Ms. Archabal began her distinguished career with the Minnesota Historical Society in 1977. In 1987, Archabal became the Historical Society's 10th Director after serving nine years as deputy director.

While at the helm of the Historical Society, Archabal oversaw several major projects including the construction of the Minnesota Historical Society Center in Saint Paul, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in Onamaia and the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. These projects have helped to preserve and protect Minnesota's past and tell Minnesota's story. Visitors to Historical Society sites learn about our past through unique and engaging exhibits, including "living history" demonstrations like the beloved celebration of the holidays at the Saint Paul home of Minnesota's first territorial governor, Alexander Ramsey, where visitors experience Christmas 1875 by meeting "members" of the Ramsey family, sampling fresh cookies from the wood-burning stove. These unique traditions make history accessible and understandable to young and old alike.

Throughout her career, Nina Archabal has demonstrated strength of character, hard work, dedication and perseverance that has made the Minnesota Historical Society a national model for historic preservation and interpretation. I value her service and commitment, which will be felt by generations of Minnesotans in the future.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nina Archabal for her 23 years of service for the state of Minnesota. It is my honor to submit this statement.